

Meeting Minutes
Weed Beach Building Committee
June 27, 2007
Room 119, Town Hall

Present: P. Hovell, P. Hendrickson, M. Hawley, M. Wright, D. Parnon, J. Enters, J. Howe, S. Swiatek

Absent: J. Branigan

Alternate present: C. Darby

Guests: D. Halstead – Stearns and Wheler (S&W), N. Hauck - Architect

Hovell called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

Contract with S&W will be signed this week.

Halstead and Hauck were present to answer any questions the committee might have and to gather any additional information. Committee members were assigned project area(s) to ensure timely coverage of each project element.

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Enters clarified for Halstead and Hauck that the existing bath house building would be razed and the new pavilion would be pushed back (into the current driveway circle), off the beach to reclaim additional beach area. Bath house and restaurant buildings would be connected by the boardwalk.

Wright posed a question as to whether the parking would be sufficient for the restaurant.

Committee agreed the decision about restaurant parking would be determined in the overall layout and included in the agreement with the concessionaire/restaurateur.

Swiatek suggested that the playground be incorporated more naturally into its surroundings so it does not impede the view from the restaurant and is more discreet than its location on the existing plan.

Emphasis placed on boat launch area was for light boats (ones that could be carried or rolled on wheels by one or two people) so there wouldn't be a need for a hard surface. Pear Tree boat launch handles larger boats.

Parnon brought up the potential for dune/sand movement during the winter months. How would the dunes be retained to minimize this possibility?

Hawley expressed a concern for privacy between restaurant and beach. Once the overall plan is designed, many of these points will be addressed.

Howe wanted to emphasize the boardwalk would be ADA compliant (wheel chairs, strollers etc.). Halstead assured us the boardwalk would be accessible all along its route around the park.

Hovell shared an example from Norwalk that will guide how our restaurant building is designed. We provide the space for the restaurateur to design their own kitchen.

Stew's at the Beach (Stew Leonard) owns the concession at Calf Pasture. The non resident \$2.00 park entrance fee is taken off your bill. Hovell asked Swiatek to schedule a date to check out the restaurant at Calf Pasture.

The Darien Police has agreed to set up a car counter on Nearwater Lane as requested by Swiatek from June 29 to July 15 to get a sense of the traffic at the peak summer beach use.

Hauck agreed with the proposed timeline: preliminary design work would be completed this summer, go through the zoning process in October with a goal of approval by the end of the year.

Hauck and Halstead will have a great excuse to "go to the beach" this summer as camps and programs are in full swing. Observing park use and traffic patterns will be helpful in redesigning the lay out. Swiatek to give Hauck and Halstead beach stickers.

Enters suggested that a model be created. Scale should be large enough to let people see the relationship between buildings and landscaping. The Town Hall foyer was a possible display location.

8:25pm Hauck and Halstead left.

Swiatek, Branigan and Parnon to meet to develop a PR strategy with particular attention to addressing concerns from the neighbors.

Howe put together a document comparing a snack bar with a small restaurant.

Parnon suggested we talk to Rob Williamson, Unlce's By the Sea concessionaire to find out why the snack bar at the beach is the way it is.

Committee discussed the "Key Messages" document and the FAQ's sheet prepared by Darby. This information will assist WBBC in our public relations efforts and give committee members information useful in answering questions.

July 11 meeting has been cancelled.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Next meeting July 25 in Room 213, Town Hall, 7:30pm.

Hauck and Halstead will attend to present the plans they have drawn to that point.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Parnon
Secretary